

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05
ORM-02 IO-13 NEAE-00 /057 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:DBARCHARD:GN
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE
NEA/RA:SHOLLY

-----221458 130314 /53

P 221432Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, BG

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON THE BIHARIS

1. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A TELEGRAPHIC UPDATE ON OUR INFORMATION ON THE BIHARIS SITUATION, IF POSSIBLE BY FEBRUARY 28. A SEARCH OF OUR FILES REVEALS LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE BIHARIS DATED LATER THAN 1975, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM DACCA THAT THE SITUATION HAS MUCH IMPROVED SINCE THAT TIME.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO COME UP WITH ANSWERS TO ALL OF THE QUESTIONS ON SHORT NOTICE BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR BEST EFFORTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. THE QUESTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

3. BIHARI CAMPS: DO MOST OF THE BIHARIS CONTINUE TO RESIDE IN CAMPS? DO ANY REMAIN IN THE CAMPS BECAUSE OF OFFICIAL
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BDG POLICY? WHAT ARE CONDITIONS LIKE IN THE CAMPS? WHO RUNS THE CAMPS? WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FOREIGN VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS? EMPLOYMENT: ARE THERE MANY BIHARIS WORKING OUTSIDE THE CAMPS? IF SO, WHERE DO THEY RESIDE? HAVE ANY RETURNED TO THEIR FORMER JOBS SUCH AS WITH THE

RAILROADS? ARE THERE DISCERNABLE DIFFERENCES IN THE STAN-

DARDS OF LIVING BETWEEN THE BIHARIS AND BANGLADESHIS IN
GENERAL? OFFICIAL POLICY: SINCE LATE 1975, HAS THERE
BEEN A PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT LINE TOWARD BIHARIS? IS
THERE ANY EVIDENCE OF OFFICIAL HARASSMENT OR DISCRIMINA-
(ANY EVIDENCE
TION? (ANY UNOFFICIAL HARASSMENT OR DISCRIMINATION?) ARE
ANY BIHARIS IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT? ARE BIHARIS FREE TO
TRAVEL WITHIN BANGLADESH? ARE THEY ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE
BANGLADESH; PASSPORTS? "REPATRIATION": HAS THE MLA MADE
ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING "REPATRIATION" OF BIHARIS
TO PAKISTAN? IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE MLA HAS
DROPPED THE MUJIB GOVERNMENT'S INSISTENCE THAT PAKISTAN
ACCEPT THE BIHARIS?
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, BIHARIS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE039129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DBARCHARD:GN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770061-0359
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770221/aaaaasfr.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95e960c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3263917
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS REPORT ON THE BIHARIS
TAGS: SHUM, BG
To: DACCA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95e960c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009